

A communication structure and method which allows connection-like and connectionless communications to be provided on a multiplexed link is provided. The structure and method can make efficient use of available transmission capacity and/or network resources while providing both types of communication and hybrids. Connection-like communications can be provided by a channel having allocated transmission capacity dedicated to the communication while connectionless communication can be provided by a shared channel through which data can be transmitted to subscribers. In an embodiment, the shared channel transmits frames of packets addressed to one or more of the subscribers. The allocation of transmission capacity between the dedicated channels and the shared channel can be fixed, or can be managed to meet network or network operator requirements. The structure and method can also be managed by the network operator to permit prioritization of some communications over others. In another embodiment, two or more shared channels are provided.

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